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Boston March 28. 1874

My dear Sir

Stranger things have
happened than that you should be
Sumner's successor. Should they
be the event would there be any
obstacle on your own part to your
qualifying under the constitution.

Yours truly and at
present alone

Edward Atkinson

Wm Lloyd Garrison Esq

(See reply on 3rd page.)

My dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to inform you
that your letter of the 10th inst.
has been received and that the
same has been forwarded to the
proper authorities for their
consideration. I am, Sir,
very respectfully,
Yours,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

P.S. There are other weighty reasons why Gen.
Banks should not be chosen.

Roxbury, March 28, 1874.

Edward Atkinson, Esq.

Dear Sir— Your friendly and complimentary letter of inquiry causes me very great surprise, because, although we have lived to see many strange occurrences in our day, I deem it scarcely more supposable that, under any fortuitous combination of circumstances or rallying of forces, I should be chosen successor of Charles Sumner in the U. S. Senate by the Legislature of Massachusetts, than that "Birnam wood will come to Dunsinane." What, therefore, is utterly out of the question cannot be with me a matter of grave consideration. Besides, if, by any possible "change of base," such a choice should happen to be made as a dernier resort, I have some conscientious difficulties, particularly as respects the war provisions of the Constitution of the United States, that would prevent my qualifying under that instrument.

Whoever else may be elected to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Sumner's death, I trust it will not be Gen. Banks, who has strangely succeeded in getting the Legislature to honor and extol alike the facile signer of the Fugitive Slave Law and him who execrated, denounced and resisted that iniquitous law to the utmost, and over whose irreparable loss the friends of freedom are making great lamentation on both sides of the Atlantic. I With great respect I remain,
Very truly yours, W. L. G.

